Request for Expression of Interest:
Short-Term Consultant for the review of the Terminal Evaluation Review Process

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides support to address global environmental concerns related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals. Since its inception in 1991, the GEF has provided developing countries and countries with economies in transition US $20 billion in grants. These grants are implemented on ground through a network of 18 accredited agencies. The GEF receives its funds through a four-year replenishment.

The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) has a central role in ensuring the independent evaluation function within the GEF. The GEF IEO is based in Washington DC. It is administered by the World Bank but is independent of its management as well as the management of the GEF. Its Director reports directly to the GEF Council, the GEF governing body. All contracts with the IEO are World Bank contracts. More information about the GEF IEO can be found at Office’s website: www.gefeo.org.

The GEF Agencies implement GEF supported projects in recipient countries. At the end of implementation completion of a project, GEF Agencies prepare a terminal evaluation to give an account of implementation experience and project performance. The GEF IEO validates these terminal evaluations to ensure that the project performance ratings are comparable, consistent and evidence based. The validation results in a terminal evaluation review report, which includes validated performance ratings that cover areas such as outcome, sustainability, implementation and M&E. These ratings are incorporated in GEF IEO’s terminal evaluation review dataset and analyzed to assess performance trends, correlations and causal relationships. Analysis of these performance ratings along with qualitative information from the terminal evaluations is presented regularly in the GEF IEO’s Annual Performance Report. The data is also used in several evaluations prepared by the GEF IEO. The process for terminal evaluation validation was instituted in 2004. Since then there have been minor changes in the process along with that in the instrument used for validation.

The GEF IEO is conducting an evaluation of the self-evaluation systems across the GEF Partnership. The evaluation assesses the Agency self-evaluation systems along with the GEF IEO’s validation process. The review of the terminal evaluation validation process will be undertaken within the framework of the evaluation of the self-evaluation
systems. The purpose of the review is to identify gaps in the GEF IEO’s validation process, measures that may be used to strengthen the process, and the cost implications of these measures. The review will seek to answer following questions:

- To what extent is the terminal evaluation validation process transparent?
- To what extent does the validation process enhance the credibility of ratings based on the evidence provided in the terminal evaluations?
- How does the GEF IEO’s terminal evaluation validation process compare with that of other international development agencies?
- What are the good practices and lessons that may be incorporated in the GEF IEO’s validation process?

The review will be conducted from May to August 2020.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

The consultant will conduct the review. The consultant will perform following tasks:

a. Assess the GEF IEO’s validation process. Review relevant documents and conduct interviews of the GEF IEO staff and key stakeholders.
b. Compare GEF IEO’s process with that of other international development agencies (including those that implement activities through other Agencies). Review documents and conduct interviews of the relevant agencies.
c. Identify no-cost and at-cost options along with a discussion on the value added by these. Review of cost data on travel costs, consultant costs, time taken, etc.
d. Prepare a report that presents the findings of the review.

Qualifications

The candidate should have following qualifications:

- A Master’s degree or higher.
- Ideally 10-15 years of work experience in international development.
- Proven expertise in review of self-evaluation and validation systems, terminal evaluation review process, and field verification of terminal evaluations.
- Strong quantitative and qualitative analysis skills.
- Excellent writing and speaking skills in English.
- Excellent skills in preparing reports and other analytical outputs.

Compensation, payments and other arrangements
The assignment will be for 30 work days. The consultant daily rate will be determined following the World Bank rules and procedures. International travel is not anticipated. However, in case such travel is required, it would be undertaken following the World Bank rules and procedures for such travel.

Submission requirements

Interested consultants are hereby invited to submit expressions of interest in English, to gefevaluation@thegef.org with “Short-Term Consultant for the review of the Terminal Evaluation Review Process” in the subject. The application should include a CV and a cover letter expressing how their work experience fits the qualifications above. The application deadline is April 24, 2020.